

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2018-346-C

IN RE:

Application of Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.)
for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications)
Carrier In Certain Census Blocks in Georgetown)
and Marion Counties for Purposes of Receiving)
Federal Connect America Fund ("CAF"))
Phase II Support)
_____)

MOTION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATION

Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("HTC") hereby respectfully moves for expedited review of its Amended Application, filed pursuant to § 214(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, and the rules and regulations of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") and the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), requesting designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in seventeen eligible census blocks located in Georgetown County and two eligible census block located in Marion County in order to receive federal universal service support under Sections 214 and 254 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and pursuant to the FCC's Connect America Fund Phase II ("CAF Phase II") auction (the "Amended Application").

HTC requests that this matter be decided by the Commission at the Commission's earliest opportunity in a regularly-scheduled agenda session, that a formal evidentiary hearing be waived, and that the hearing currently scheduled for January 23, 2019, be

canceled. In support of this Motion, HTC would respectfully show unto this honorable Commission the following:

1. HTC filed an initial application in this matter on November 1, 2018. HTC filed its Amended Application on December 20, 2018.

2. HTC published a Notice of Filing of the request in newspapers of general circulation, as directed by the Commission. The deadline to intervene in this matter was December 31, 2018.

3. The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) is a statutory party to this action. See S.C. Code Ann. § 58-4-10(B). On January 7, 2019, counsel for the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) filed a letter with the Commission stating that ORS has no objection to the Amended Application and does not object to proceeding without a formal hearing in this matter.

4. No other comments or petitions to intervene were received in response to the notice. Thus, all interested persons have been afforded an opportunity for a hearing, as required by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-280(B), Section 1-23-320(a) of the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act, and constitutional due process. Proceeding without a formal hearing in this matter would serve the public interest in administrative efficiency.

5. In support of its Amended Application, HTC filed the testimony of Brent Groome. In his testimony, Mr. Groome described in detail the relief HTC is seeking, and testified that granting HTC’s request for designation as an ETC in the requested census blocks not later than February 25, 2019, will serve the public interest by allowing HTC to use available federal funding to bring robust broadband service to certain areas of the State.

6. Along with this Motion, HTC is filing an Affidavit executed by Carlton Lewis, an officer of the Company, attesting to the truth and accuracy of the Amended Application and testimony filed in this docket. HTC is also filing a Proposed Order in this matter. HTC has shared the Proposed Order with ORS, and ORS does not object to the substance of the Proposed Order.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, Horry Telephone Cooperative respectfully requests that the Commission:

- (1) grant HTC's request for expedited review of its Amended Application and waiver of a hearing in this matter;
- (2) issue an order granting HTC's Amended Application and designating HTC as an ETC in the census blocks described in the Amended Application;
- (3) cancel the hearing on this matter currently scheduled for January 23, 2019;
and
- (4) grant such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 7, 2019